AAAIAI Membership Experience with Allergen Immunotherapy Safety in Young Children and Pregnant Women

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Abstract

• Limited safety data for AIT in very young children and pregnant women; therefore, surveying current practice patterns may provide important preliminary guidance.

Methods

• A web-based survey was sent out to AAAAI members in August 2012 and consisted of 9 questions, with an optional 32 additional questions. Major problems with AIT were defined as activation of an underlying disease, systemic reactions, or discontinuation of AIT for medical reasons. Minor problems with AIT were defined as dose-reduction or postponed dose and AIT continuation. Survey results are expressed using descriptive statistics.

Results

• Response rate: 20% (1,016 of 5,148)

Figure 1: Responder Practice Location

Where do you practice?

- United States 86.2%
- Canada 3.1%
- Europe 3.8%
- Latin America 3.2%
- Other 3.4%

Figure 2: Responder Practice Setting

In what setting do you practice?

- Suburban 69.1%
- Urban 23.1%
- Rural 4.9%
- Other 3.8%

Figure 3: Responder Practice Type

Do you practice in an academic setting?

- Yes 38.9%
- No 61.1%

Figure 4: Responder Years of Experience

How many years have you been in practice an allergist?

- <1 year 5.9%
- 1-5 years 15.8%
- 6-10 years 14.2%
- 11-15 years 14.2%
- 16-20 years 15.1%
- >20 years 10.5%

Figure 5: Responder Experience with AIT

How many patients with AIT have you had?

- >500 patients 30.3%
- 200-500 patients 27.4%
- 100-200 patients 19.6%
- 60-100 patients 9.5%
- 20-59 patients 5.7%
- ≤19 patients 4.5%

Figure 6: Responder AIT Dosing

How do you recommend doses of AIT?

- Low dose 24.4%
- Medium dose 44.4%
- High dose 15.3%
- Other 15.7%

Figure 7: Starting Age of AIT

From what age onward do you give allergen immunotherapy (not venom) to children?

- <1 year 9.9%
- 1-4 years 12.0%
- 5 years 17.9%
- 6-10 years 20.9%
- 11-15 years 14.2%
- >16 years 11.7%

Figure 8: AIT in Pregnancy

Have you had patients with the below medical conditions on AIT?

- Yes 81.6%
- No 18.4%

Conclusions

• Most providers begin AIT in children by age 5
• Most continue AIT in pregnant women and report a low rate of major problems in this population
• Very few members start AIT in pregnant women and those that have report 6% have a major problem

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References

*Allergic Rhinitis and its Impact on Asthma (ARIA) guidelines for the management of allergic rhinitis and rhinitis-related conditions*